

NSC BRIEFING

2 March 1955

CHINESE OFFSHORE ISLANDS

- I. With ChiCom occupation Nanchishan (26 Feb), Peiping announced "more favorable conditions for liberating Formosa, Fukien islands"--Matsus and Quemoy.
- II. Matsus might be next.

US attachés Taipei say new jet base (Luchiao), just 175 mi north Matsus, done soon.

- III. Hard to judge which of nine islands in Matsus area would be hit first

DOCUMENT NO. 18  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS  
☒ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1970-3  
AUTH: [redacted]  
DATE: [redacted]  
REVIEWER: [redacted]

DIA review(s) completed.

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A. ChiComs might try to take one or more of lightly defended islands before attacking the major ones.

B. ChiNats fear early invasion. Wuchius, midway between Matsu and Quemoy. Wuchiu shelled by ChiCom ships 25 Feb.

IV. Nats beefing up Matsu defenses

A. Full strength 84th Div (11,000 troops) arriving this week. Regulars now there return.

B. Guerrilla strength to be

V. Quemoy quiet, only occasional shelling.

A. ChiComs intensifying pressure to Quemoy. Boats, Kites, lery sending safe communication other literature.

B. Some 13,000 ChiNat troops this month, increasing regulars from 54,000

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